

A United, Harmonious, and Enthusiastic Party:
Letter to the Editor of *The Worker*
(August 5, 1901)

Terre Haute, Ind., Aug. 5 [1901]

Editor of *The Worker*:—

The Socialist delegates who met at Indianapolis last week and by their wise counsel, patient effort, and fidelity to principle converted rival factions into a united, harmonious, and enthusiastic party, are entitled to the thanks and congratulations of every socialist in the country.

Considering the strained relations of the past and many other difficulties under which the delegates assembled, they accomplished all, and even more, than could reasonably have been expected, and it is with special satisfaction that I voice my approval of the results of their labor. There may be those who will use a magnifying glass in seeking points of objection, but I am confident that hearty concurrence will mark the verdict of the membership at large.

Only our friends, the enemy, have cause for chagrin and disappointment. Most assiduously did their emissaries scatter the seed of dissension and strife, but it failed to germinate. The soil and climate were not congenial to it and the crop was a total failure. In the severity of debate, it may have seemed at times as if the convention was doomed to failure, but as passion subsided, the delegates were brought nearer and nearer together until at last all differences were hammered into forms of harmony and strength, and the stirring strains of “The Marseillaise” burst from the throat of the delegation and proclaimed the triumph of the convention.

The platform is a sound and practical expression of the principle and program of the party; the name is free from objection; the general plan of organization meets the demand, and the national headquarters have been wisely located.

For National Secretary, the convention could not have made a better choice than Leon Greenbaum. Knowing the comrade personally, I can with pleasure bear testimony to his honesty, efficiency, and unflagging devotion to socialist principles.

Through *The Worker* I extend a hand of cordial congratulation to every comrade.¹ Let the dead past bury its dead. Let the convention stand as a monument above internal dissension and factional strife.

The proletariat is to be organized for the great class struggle, and the task appeals for our united and unflinching efforts. Hail the Socialist Party of America and the Social Revolution!

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¹ *The Worker*, formerly the dissident version of *The People* published at a William Street address in New York City, was the official organ of the Springfield SDP prior to the 1901 Socialist Unity Convention. This letter by Debs was effectively a post-unification olive branch offered to these formerly rivals of his Chicago SDP organization.